



CITY NEWS

The new perspective on city living

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Upcoming Reparations March Can Be Crucial

By George E. Curry

From time to time, an issue that's been around for a while suddenly leaps to the forefront of public attention and takes on a new, energized life of its own. In the early stages of the anti-apartheid demonstrations in Washington, no one knew that minority-rule in South Africa was about to come to an end. And few thought that if Nelson Mandela were ever released from prison—if they believed he would be released at all—he would become president of South Africa.

This weekend, supporters of reparations for blacks are gathering in Washington, D.C., in hopes of keeping the issue in the public eye and, more importantly, improve its chances of becoming a reality. And like those early anti-apartheid marchers, they are not discouraged by talk of blacks never receiving reparations from the United States government.

In the past, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations (N'COBRA), Rep. John Conyers and activists such as Richard America have been among the lonely voices demanding reparations for the more than two centuries of slavery and another century of slave-like degradation and segregation. They have remained vigilant as others have attempted to marginalize them and their cause.

But in recent years, support for reparations has broadened to the point that the idea can't be dismissed by summarily attacking its supporters. The likes of Richard America and attorney Adjoa Aiyetora have now been joined by Dorothy Height, of the National Council of Negro Women, Harvard Law Professor Charles Ogletree and William Lucy, of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Randall Robinson, the former head of TransAfrica, sparked more public debate by writing a book on the subject titled, "The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks."

What was roundly dismissed as a radical idea in the past is not considered radical anymore. Not when the Bush Administration wants to eliminate affirmative action. Not when other countries are offering atonement for their past behavior. Canada has made financial amends with Japanese Canadians, Austria has doled out \$25 million for Holocaust survivors and even the United States has paid \$1.2 billion to Japanese Americans wrongly interned during World War II.

Unlike countries that have embraced their African links, such as Cuba and Brazil, the United States still has difficulty owning up to its exploitation of Africans brought here against their will. With people such as Ward Connerly willing to carry their water, they prefer to pretend that racism doesn't exist anymore. If it does exist, some argue, its racism against White people. And they make those specious arguments by using the very statutes designed to assist blacks, such as the equal protection clause of the constitution, and turn them against African-Americans.

So, it's no surprise that some Americans are unwilling to even discuss the merits of reparations. Conyers introduces a bill every year—HR40 (as in 40 acres and a mule)—that would establish a commission to study possible legislation at the federal level. But the measure never gets out of committee.

While there appears to be growing support for reparations among African-Americans, few White politicians will even discuss the subject.

"This is the subject that at the national level nobody wants to talk about," Conyers said at a TransAfrica forum two years ago. "This is America's secret and, at the same time, most sensitive political problem of race that now comes together when we raise questions of reparations that lead many people to move toward the door, to exit as quickly as they can."

Not all Whites are moving toward the door. One group is called CURE—Caucasians United for Reparations and Emancipation. Acting in the tradition of White abolitionists, the group's statement of belief and purpose declares: "We see the United States as immoral from its very foundation because of the lie of white superiority and the commission of the crime of slavery, and we dedicate our lives to fundamental change within ourselves, and in our society."

A paper published by the Human Rights Watch notes, "We begin with the premise that slavery, the slave trade, the most severe forms of racism associated with colonialism and subsequent official racist practices such as apartheid in South Africa or the Jim Crow laws in the United States are extraordinarily serious human rights violations. If committed today these would be crimes against humanity."

Correction: They were crimes against humanity then. And it's a crime to pretend that we're solving the race problem in America without acknowledging in a formal way that the re still with us.

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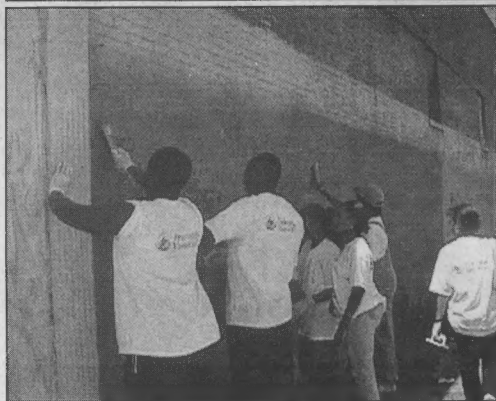
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George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com.



Prudential Interns Volunteer — Approximately 75 bright, young, and talented associates from INROADS, one of Prudential Financial's internship programs, and members of the company's Accelerated Development Program (ADP) gave back to their community by participating in volunteer projects in both Newark and Hillside. Volunteer activities are an integral part of the INROADS and ADP programs. The duties of the interns consisted of painting and landscaping at the Greater Newark Conservancy and sorting grocery items at the Hillside Community Food Bank.



Employee of the Month — Licinio Carvahlo (right) accompanied by Mayor Sharpe James is employee of the month. Carvahlo began his employment with the City of Newark as a Lead Poisoning Inspector with the Division of Environmental Health. Later in his career, Carvahlo was transferred to the Bureau of Food and Drug as a Sanitary Inspector. Recently, he was promoted to the position of Coordinator of Bioterrorism in the Department of Health and Human Services.



Proud Graduate — Stacy Hammond of Plainfield was among the graduates of the 102nd class of Gill St. Bernard's School in Gladstone, N.J. Stacy was the recipient of the prestigious Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Award. In addition, she will attend Rutgers University.



Verizon Scholarship — Verizon is committed to Community and Education. From left to right, Hope Harley, director of community affairs, Verizon; Kristen Harden, Verizon scholarship recipient; and Dennis Walcott, Deputy Mayor of New York. Harden is one of five recipients that will receive money for college to continue her education as she enters her freshman year at Clark-Atlanta University in Atlanta, Ga.



A Diverse Nation — Plainfield celebrates its third annual Ethfest at Cedarbrook Park. This city sponsored event was an opportunity for citizens to experience different and exotic foods and witness a variety of foreign entertainment. There were over 14 different countries and cultures represented at the celebration.

Curious Observer

Ever notice how most banks give such poor service in black and urban communities, and then give no service when it comes to making loans to residents in those same communities?

Can you believe that WNBC actually accidentally aired a photo of Governor James E. McGreevey to promote their upcoming story on the so called "Preppie Killer" Robert Chambers?

Did you notice that there was little mention of how successfully Newark hosted the 2002 U.S. Youth Games recently. The four-day event ended without a hitch, so city's critics, naysayers and fear mongers kept quiet.

Newark must be doing something right, so far two candidates have begun raising funds to support their mayoral campaigns for 2006, not bad for a city that some say they would not set foot in.

Are you concerned that elections are increasingly determined not by who is the best candidate, but by who can raise the most special interest money. How will poor people get representation?

Share your observation to share?

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Curious Observer

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Essay Contest Winners — SBLA USA Mutual Life Insurance Company recognizes Essex County students in an essay contest. From left to right, Hadyiah Harrell, second place winner of 4th and 5th grade division; Chantia Singleton, second place winner of 6th through 8th grade division; (back row) Shariyah Gordon winner in the 4th and 5th grade division; and Ashley McGuire (right), mother of third place winner in the 6th through 8th grade division.

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CITY NEWS..... CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Editorial

"Tour" views Newark through a truer prism

Have you ever made a significant change in your life due to increased maturity, resources or enlightenment only to find some people insisted on not only clinging to their old concept of who you are, but reminding you publicly.

It seems that the City of Newark is caught in a conundrum of that type in the minds of far too many New Jerseyans who live outside her borders, and still cleave to old realities, fears and biases. Why else would a local television writer describe *A Walk Through Newark*, the latest edition of WNET's walking tour series as "a valentine" from the producers and make veiled, prejudicial references to "a city's problems."

Previous walking tour series by WNET's David Hartman and historian Barry Lewis have featured Harlem, Greenwich Village, Central Park and Brooklyn — all New York City neighborhoods that have problems just as Tokyo, London, and even Bedminster has problems. This is not to compare Newark's problems with those of Bedminster. The socio-economic dynamics are greatly different to be sure. But then again, WNET is not doing a walking tour of Bedminster or anywhere else in New Jersey at this time. In fact, their Newark tour represents the first time that team Hartman and Lewis have ventured outside of New York City. Why, because, in the words of Lewis, who is also a professor at the New School for Social Research, "There is a great city across the river." The tour, which aired on Monday, featured the richness of Newark, including Military Park, Trinity and St. Philip's Episcopal Cathedral, The Newark Museum, Lincoln Park, NJPAC and Penn Station to name a few of the treasures here in the nation's third oldest city.

Sometimes it takes an outsider to see the good results of hard work. So we wait, impatiently, for New Jerseyans to view Newark through a prism that recognizes her strengths, not only those areas that are opportunities for improvement. The hardworking, decent residents and businesses deserve no less.

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Michael Jackson: Black by convenience?

by Lloyd Williams

"Tommy Mottola, the president of the record division [Sony] is a mean -- he's a racist and he is very, very, very devilish. The record companies really do conspire against their artists. They steal, they cheat, they do whatever they can, especially to the black artists..."

And Tommy Mottola is a devil. I'm not supposed to say what I'm going to say right now, but I have let you know this...Mariah Carey, after the divorce of Tommy, came to me crying, crying....crying, she was crying so badly I had to hold her. She said to me, 'This is an evil man, and Michael, this man follows me'. He taps her phones, and he's very, very evil. She doesn't trust him. We have to continue our drive until he is terminated. We can't allow him to do this..." — Michael Jackson

The person who coined the phrase, "You never get a second chance to make a first impression," might have been Michael Jackson's plastic surgeon. But lucky for the 43 year-old Michael, first impressions last, and most people can still think of him as the attractive, adolescent of his early, teenybopper days with the Jackson Five.

Nonetheless, the botched attempt to perform a radical blackendectomy on the self-hating icon backfired

badly. Emotionally, Jackson has to be bottoming out right about now. Tragically, after undergoing countless surgical procedures, Michael's doctor concluded that there's nothing more he could do to make him look normal. How cruel! So, when I heard that Jackson was headed to Harlem to hold a big press conference with Attorney Johnnie Cochran and activist Reverend Al Sharpton at his side, I figured that he must have finally decided to sue the crap out of the butcher responsible for making a joke of his head. But Jackson's misplaced anger had him taking his beaded glove off to attack Tommy Mottola, President of Sony, the recording company that has paid him over a hundred million dollars.

Michael earnestly demonized Mottola, referring to him as a racist and a white devil. And by prominently playing the race card, he has turned his patently personal beef into a potentially explosive ethnic issue.

For Jackson is close with Mariah Carey, Mottola's, ex-wife, another estranged, embittered Sony artist. I really don't know whether Mottola is a racist, as alleged, or not. But I wouldn't be surprised if he took his gloves off, too, and grandstanded by calling Jackson an ungrateful, loony, effeminate, odd-looking albino.

Race ought to have a declining significance in an accounting squabble

between a couple of multi-mega-millionaires where one is making the silly suggestion that the case be decided, not on the facts, but in the court of public opinion and in favor of the one with more melanin. This is a particularly nutty suggestion when it's the lighter party who's claiming to be black.

Nobody's lily-white here. Sony is a Japanese company. Mariah Carey is half-black and half-white. Michael has a couple of bi-racial kids. Tommy Mottola is darker than Jackson, whose lifelong hobby was turning himself white. Talk about pathology. So, I'm not gullible enough to fall for the incendiary racial angle, even though the music industry has an ugly legacy of exploiting African-American musicians. Go ask Little Richard about that, not wacko Jacko.

The love of money, not Tommy Mottola, is the root of all evil. And Midas Jackson better worry about raising his own children black before manipulating and mobilizing mine in the name of his bottomless pit of a pocket-book. Otherwise, Mike, Jr. and Paris might follow in their Daddy's ill-fated footsteps and end up that other white meat, too, crazy mixed-up zombies lost in Neverland.

Lloyd Williams is a member of the NY, NJ, PA, CT, MA and US Supreme Court bars

Some lenders still impede homeownership

By Julianne Malveaux

Not a week goes by when I don't get e-mail from someone peddling home loans, or home loan refinancing, on the Internet. The rates are going down, they scream, exclamation points all over the place. Loan guaranteed, they shout, casting the net as widely as they can to get me to respond.

With the mortgage interest rate down to 6.42 percent for 30 year loans, and even lower for shorter-term mortgages, financial planners say this is a great time to buy or to refinance. But, unlike me, too many African-American borrowers find the doors to conventional lending shut in their faces.

A new report from the Center for Community Change says that African Americans and Hispanics are disproportionately represented in the supreme home refinance market. That means they are paying at least 1 to 6 more percentage points than their white counterparts pay. Data from 331 metropolitan areas show that while 17 percent of whites borrow money in the sub prime market,

nearly half (49 percent) of African Americans, 30 percent of Hispanics and 28 percent of Native Americans get subprime loans.

The disparity actually grows for upper-income borrowers. Higher-income African-American homeowners do comparatively worse than their lower-income counterparts. Lower-income African-Americans were only twice as likely to get subprime loans as whites, but upper-income African Americans were three times as likely to get subprime loans.

Most lenders say the supreme market is a function of the risk they take when they provide money to borrowers whose credit is not pristine. But Freddie Mac, one of the publicly chartered secondary mortgage market enterprises, says that as many as 30 percent of those who get supreme mortgages could benefit from conventional mortgages and from great savings.

Further, in many cases the quality of your loan is a function of whom you know. Some people with "good" credit end up with costly supreme products

because they have had so many negative experiences with conventional lending that they shy away from seeking credit from them. Instead, they respond to the television and radio ads that seek them out, help them to consolidate their credit or improve their homes and charge them interest up the yin-yang.

This is important because homeownership is often the way that lower and middle-income families amass wealth. A much higher proportion of whites possess homes than African Americans and Latinos, with 71 percent of white families owning their homes in 1999, but just 46.5 percent of African-American and 45.2 percent of Latino families owning theirs, according to census data.

Many people of color can't participate in the American dream except at high-interest, supreme rates. This inequality must end.

Julianne Malveaux, who holds a Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is a nationally syndicated columnist and a popular author and lecturer sought after as a commentator and expert panelist by major media outlets.

NJ should follow Florida on voucher 'sham'

Dear Editor,

On Monday, August 5th the Florida trial court ruled that the state's school voucher program is in violation of the Florida constitution.

We are gratified that the court saw through the sham of voucher programs. Public monies funneled to religious schools through parental vouchers does constitute state aid to religion.

Like many states, Florida's constitution contains a specific provision bar-

ring the diversion of taxpayer dollars to religious institutions. Coming on the heels of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Zelman* decision in June, which held vouchers permissible under the federal constitution and appeared to breathe life into the pro-voucher campaign, the Florida trial court's ruling holds up a stop sign and highlights *Zelman*'s limited impact.

In striking down the nation's first statewide voucher program, the trial court sent a clear signal that explicit lan-

guage in state constitutions barring governmental support of religious instruction will be strictly enforced.

We hope that the Florida ruling will dissuade New Jersey and other states from adopting school voucher programs.

Sincerely,

Roger L. Manshel

Roger L. Manshel is president of the American Jewish Committee, Metro NJ Chapter in Milburn.

Black Chamber members win international award, recognition

NEWARK—Although yet in its infancy, members of the Black Chamber of Commerce of Northern New Jersey (BCCNJ) are making their presence known in the state, the nation, and the world since its formation 16 months ago.

Last month the International Association of Web Masters and Designers (IAWMD) selected the Chamber's website for its Golden Web Award. The website was designed by BCCNJ member Christopher Devine who is vice president and CTO of InterWide Solutions, an information technologies consultation firm based in Newark. The IAWMD was founded in 1997 and is today supported by 135,000 members and affiliates in 145 countries worldwide.

"This award is a testament to the ease and cooperation of working with Christopher Devine, of InterWide Solutions," Dr. Henry C. Johnson, president of the BCCNJ said, noting that the award has an international scope. "We are pleased that we were able to team with a Chamber member to construct our site. This represents the first class work that our members are doing."

The IAWMD's Golden Web Award is based on overall site design, functionality, content, and usability, said Devine whose six-year-old firm received three other awards this year.

"We (InterWide) are on target with our development, and processes. We're able to provide a consistent product for our clients," said Devine adding that he is still working on expanding the BCCNJ's website. "More interactive discussion groups will be added. We just completed a business listing data base that contains members businesses and the complete member listing." To view the BCCNJ site go to www.blackchambernj.com.

Earlier this summer four BCCNJ firms were among the B.E.100s, a listing of the nation's largest black businesses that is issued annually by Black Enterprise magazine.

The BCCNJ companies on the Black Enterprise list were Integrated Packaging Corp. in New Brunswick; Freehold Chevrolet in Freehold; City National Bank of New Jersey in Newark; and Powell Capital Markets, Inc. of Roseland.

"They reflect the standard and caliber of businesses that we (BCCNJ) are all striving to form."

—Henry C. Johnson, Ph.D.
President, BCCNJ

We will continue to strive to be the kind of minority enterprise that would keep in such fine company. Integrated celebrates its 10th year in business this month. The manufacturer and supplier of corrugated containers and displays moved up from 47 on the Industrial/Service 100 list last year to position number 33, and had an estimated \$100 million in sales.

"We're really excited and pleased that members of our organization continue to stand out, and we're certainly proud of those members who made the Black Enterprise list," said Johnson. "They (BCCNJ members cited) reflect the standard and caliber of business that we are all striving to form."

There are currently 68 members of the BCCNJ. The organization meets monthly and provides a variety of educational, advocacy and networking opportunities for the membership and North Jersey business com-



BLACK CHAMBER OF WINNERS — Shown here (from left to right) are Christopher Devine, VP and CTO of InterWide Solutions and Dr. Henry C. Johnson, president, BCCNJ.

munity. Notable speakers have included Glenn Cunningham, Mayor of Jersey City. The Chamber has sponsored a gubernatorial candidate's forum last fall, hosted a reception for incoming NJ Commerce and Economic Growth Commission Secretary of Commerce William D. Watley, and helped sponsor a recent reception for the Black, Latino and Asian Legislative Caucus.

"It makes us proud as chamber members that such a young organization is already on the right track to becoming something greater," said Devine, whose four-year old firm joined the BCCNJ last year.

NJ 2002 Economic Development

Conference announced

TRENTON — The New Jersey Commerce & Economic Growth Commission will hold its 2002 New Jersey Conference on Economic Development on Friday, September 6 in East Brunswick, Secretary of Commerce William D. Watley announced Monday.

"There are many dimensions to economic development in New Jersey," said Secretary Watley. "From financing programs and environmental issues to urban development and redevelopment and smart growth, New Jersey is unique in the way it practices economic development. That's why I encourage business and community leaders to attend this important forum."

The conference, which is expected to attract a diverse section of the business community, is being organized by NJ Commerce in partnership with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, Prosperity New Jersey and the Economic Development Association of New Jersey.

For more information, call (609) 777-0885.



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Headaches during back to school time

CHICAGO — As Summer draws to a close, many parents will again fall into the routine of having kids back in school. What these parents may not know is that their child might be suffering from headaches due to this transition.

For children, the start of school can be a time of both anticipation and anxiety. The stress of new teachers, friends and classes along with changes in daily routine, are both common triggers of migraine and tension-type headaches.

More than 10 million children between the ages of 5-17, 20% of all young people, experience chronic headaches. In fact, 20% of people who currently suffer from migraine or tension-type headaches report that their headaches began before age 10. Unfortunately, young children are oftentimes unable to effectively communicate their symptoms, thus making it very difficult for parents to recognize that a recurring problem might exist.

Many parents are not aware that kids may be susceptible to headaches, because

the common misconception is that headaches are an adult disease. According to the National Headache Foundation (NHF), signs your child may be suffering from migraine or chronic headaches include:

- Experiences car or motion sickness.
- Wakes up because of headache.

Headache severity increases or headaches occur more frequently. Changes in temperament or personality. Nausea, vomiting or stomach pain. Headache goes away with rest. Pain increases with physical activity. Other family members experience migraine.

If your child experiences one or more of these signs, the NHF recommends that you schedule an appointment with the child's healthcare provider to specifically discuss the headache problem. Your best ally in helping your child cope with headache is a doctor who knows your family and is willing to spend sufficient time to diagnose and treat the problem.

Health & science:

Preparing for back to school: taking on the weighty issue of backpacks

TRENTON — When you hear today's schoolchildren complain about homework being a pain, they may not be exaggerating. The heavy loads in their backpacks, according to doctors, might cause their aching backs and necks.

The issue first gained attention three years ago with an American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons report. The Academy found that more than half of the physicians it surveyed reported seeing students whose back and shoulder pain came from carrying backpacks that were too heavy. The AAOS recommended that students carry loads no greater than 15% of their body weight. Also that year, the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported that more than 3,400 pupils between ages 5 and 14 were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries related to backpacks or book bags.

"There's a growing recognition that weighty textbooks and overstuffed backpacks may lead to real health problems for growing bodies," said Edwina M. Lee, executive director of the New Jersey School Boards Association.

School districts have responded to the concern by calling on teachers to coordinate the homework given to children, establishing longer breaks between class periods to allow students to go to their lockers to retrieve books, and even by purchasing two sets of bookbags for students to keep at home and one for the classroom.

In some communities, school officials have conducted meetings with students and parents to address the issue. Rather than having children take an entire book home, teachers sometimes provide copies of the material needed for the night's assignment. In addition, an increasing number of school districts offer textbooks on computer disc or ensure that the books are available at local libraries.

The issue continues to generate research. The Alfred I. Dupont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware, is nearing the end of a two-year study of the effect of heavy backpacks on more than 1,000 teenagers in Pennsylvania and Delaware. Researchers are reviewing numerous factors such as how children walk, how they carry backpacks, the distance they walk and even the effect of obesity, which is often the culprit in the lower back pain that many children experience, according to Dupont doctors.

"NJSBA will be very interested in the results of the Dupont study," said Lee. "Some local school boards are calling on textbook publishers to produce lighterweight books, and there is proposed legislation to set state standards for maximum textbook weight. The study may have an impact on state policy."

Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes Jr. of Middlesex County is sponsoring a bill that would require the New Jersey State Board of Education to adopt maximum weight standards for

textbooks used by children in primary and secondary schools. The legislation, A2440, is currently in the Assembly Education Committee. California lawmakers are also addressing the issue. A proposal, now in the California state Senate, would require school boards to distribute surveys to find creative, cost-effective measures to reduce the weight of student backpacks.

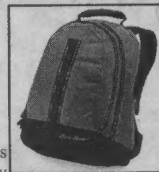
Meanwhile, NJSBA's Edwina Lee stressed the role of parents in helping students to avoid injury due to overweight backpacks.

"Parents should consider what their children are carrying to school and back home," she said. "They may find that, in addition to books needed for homework, the backpacks might contain personal items, electronic gadgets and non-school items that only add weight."

• Backpacks should have a waist belt designed to evenly distribute the weight of the contents.

Even though some children believe it looks "cool" to allow backpacks to hang off of one shoulder and below the waist, students should use both shoulder straps and position the pack above the waistline. Children should not overload the backpacks.

Children should keep good posture; hunching over while walking with a backpack increases stress on the spine.



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Health Briefs

Lung disease rising in women

The rate of emphysema is growing rapidly, especially among women, report federal health officials. And for the first time, women have edged past men in deaths from the debilitating lung condition.

The death rate is increasing dramatically — especially among women — because so many took up smoking after the 1940s. In 1980, emphysema killed 16,000 women and 37,000 men. In 2000, it killed 60,000 women and 59,000 men.

Scientists find new clues about how cancer spreads

Scientists at Glasgow's Beatson Institute in London have discovered how a key protein helps cancerous cells spread through the body in a finding that could pave the way for new drugs to slow the progression of the disease.

The molecule, called Src, loosens the tissue around a tumor and allows cancerous

cells to metastasize, or grow in other organs. They believe drugs designed to block the action of the molecule could prevent cancer from spreading.

— Reuters Health

Immigrant kids in US less likely to get vaccines

Foreign-born children are less likely than their US-born peers to receive immunizations against hepatitis B and a type of bacteria that can cause life-threatening, potentially brain-damaging illness, researchers with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report.

Their study compared rates of vaccination among US-born and foreign-born children aged 19 to 35 months. Parents of youngsters applying for US citizenship are required to have documents that show the child has been immunized. If documentation is unavailable the child is scheduled to receive the first set of required vaccinations.

— Reuters Health

October anthrax probe ends at a lone, blue, government issued mailbox in Princeton; suspect (s) remains at large

NEWARK — The 10-month probe into the origin of the deadly biological agent, anthrax, that closed down Capital Hill, unnerved national new anchors, took the lives of five Americans and left 13 other persons seriously stricken may be narrowed to a single, standard blue mailbox in tony, erudite Princeton.

Governor James E. McGreevey, said Monday in a guarded, cautious statement at a joint law enforcement press conference that the suspicious mailbox was removed last week when state health officials detected the anthrax spores.

The risk to the public's health and safety is "exceedingly small". Last year the anthrax related death resulted in a national panic as people rushed to seek antibiotic protection from the threat. Anthrax tainted letters were even mailed to news outlets and Capital Hill. The anthrax letters were mailed a month after the September 11 terrorists attacks, and were at first believed to be related.

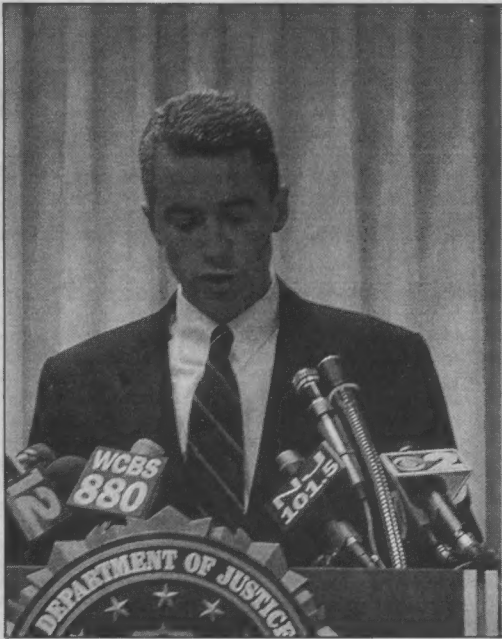


Photo by Scheryl Gant
Governor James E. McGreevey discusses anthrax investigation

The exact location of the Princeton mailbox that tested positive for Anthrax was not revealed during the press conference, because "the details are part of a pending investigation", according to Governor. The anthrax-laced postal box was discovered last Thursday during an ongoing examination by NJ state health officials.

The mailbox in question is believed to be located near Princeton University, however official declined to comment on whether or not the cope of the investigation would be widened. The investigation centered on 600 mailboxes, of which all but 39 have been tested for traces of anthrax. The remaining mailboxes are scheduled to be tested by the end of the week, according to state and federal investigators.

"No new cases have been detected beyond the original cases in October 2001," McGreevey said. "With the subsequent removal of the mailbox, no further threat exists."

Dr. Clifton Lacy, NJ commissioner of the state

Department of Health and Senior Services, said a department survey of 240,000 emergency room visits and 7,100 stays in intensive care units in and around the state following the October infections turned up no new anthrax cases.

On Sunday Dr. Steven J. Hatfill, a bio-weapons scientist held a press conference in Virginia declaring his loyalty for America. Hatfill, whose Maryland apartment and Florida storage unit were searches in June and earlier this month, said he "had nothing to do in any way, shape or form with the mailing of these anthrax letters." Investigators in New Jersey not mention Hatfill during the press conference. Hatfill's name surfaced more than a month ago, and is one of approximately 30 people who are under investigation by federal agents. Law enforcement officials describe Hatfill as "a person of interest" but have not declared him a criminal suspect.

The anthrax sample found in Princeton has been sent to a U.S. Army facility.

Since 1865 advocates have said reparations for slavery must be given to their descendants in some form

By Nayaba Arinde
The Challenge Group

NEW YORK (NNPA)—On Saturday hundreds of thousands are expected to converge on Washington for the August 17 rally to demand reparations.

Movement is always better than stagnation, and the age-old reparations call surely is striding along like a wronged person on a mission. From back room to large hall meetings; from national grass-root debate reparations may have become a new axiom for commercial journalism, but it is increasingly becoming a point of focus for many black folks navigating the epic history of the Diaspora.

"We must have reparations," long-time civil rights activist Rev. Herbert Daughtry said recently. As people prepare for next week's reparations rally, Daughtry pointed out, "Reparations is legally just and morally right, and has a historical precedent, other people have received reparations, and from 1865 straight on through to now there has always been a demand for reparations. This is nothing new."

During the Reconstruction Era, with "40 acres and a mule" as the new demand, several reparations societies were born and incorporated themselves

into organizations such as the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty and Pension Association, which was to garner hundreds of thousands dues-paying members from the late 1800's to about 1915.

On January 16, 1865, Gen. William T. Sherman issued his Field Order No. 15 setting aside "the islands from Charleston, south, the abandoned rice fields along the river for 30 miles back from the sea, and the country bordering the St. John's River, Florida," for settlement by blacks exclusively. His order provided that "each family should have a lot of not more than 40 acres of tillable ground."

The Freedman's Bureau was a government group established to provide housing, land, legal and financial resources to the more than four million freed enslaved Africans. Gen. Rufus Saxton, the Bureau's South Carolina director, settled some 40,000 blacks on forty-acre plots in the area. But, in 1866 President Andrew Johnson confiscated all land controlled by the Bureau and returned the land to ex-Confederates.

"I am talking primarily in collective terms," Daughtry said, but there are many ways that we can get reparations.

One is for the cancellation of the 'Third World' debt; another is to set up a Marshall Plan for the inner cities; to have a massive response to the health crisis in the inner cities; similarly to have a massive advance in urban education—through the building of schools and, supporting traditional black colleges, which need help; and to have economic developments

"Gen. Sherman, who had his scorched-earth policy after he conquered the South, announced his Field Order 15, whereby he wanted to break up plantations and give the land to enslaved Africans."

—Rev. Hubert Daughtry in significant ways."

According to her booklet 'Black Reparations Now!' Dorothy Benton-Lewis documents that in 1990, the U.S. government gave Japanese Americans \$1.2 billion or \$20,000 each; in 1986 the Ottawas of Michigan received

\$32 million for the 1836 Treaty; in 1985 the Chippewas of Wisconsin received \$31 million; and in 1985, Florida's Seminoles got \$12.3 million and the Sioux of South Dakota got \$105 million.

In a case brought against the German government and certain industries in March 2000, negotiators in Berlin agreed to distribute monies from a \$5 billion fund to compensate Nazi-era forced laborers. Reportedly, the cash would be given to between 800,000 to 2.3 million Europeans, many from Eastern Europe who had been living behind the Iron Curtain. Forced factory laborers were scheduled to get up to \$2,500 each. Those who worked in concentration camps were to be given up to \$7,500 each. Another \$350 million fund (financed half-and-half by the German government and industry) was earmarked for a foundation to sponsor research and educational projects regarding the issue of Nazi labor, and to pay administrative and legal costs. The American government agreed to send a letter of support in any case brought against German companies in U.S. courts, saying that all Nazi-era related claims should be referred to the fund.

The World Conference

Against Racism held in Durban last year issued a resolution declaring the obvious; that the trans-Atlantic slavery and colonialism was a crime against humanity. America refused to participate in the conference. But, reparations was part of the international discussion in Durban, and other parts of the Diaspora are looking to other European governments to cough up money and acceptable deals. Next week's rally is expected to be a show of strength and commitment, no one is expecting the George Bush government to immediately respond.

Probably the best known of all the groups pushing for reparations has been the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America. They demand "Our just inheritance: the trillions of dollars due us for the labor of our ancestors who worked for hundreds of years without pay."

Editor's Note: The Rally for Reparations will be held Saturday, Aug. 17th on the Washington Mall between the Capital and the Washington Monument, beginning at noon. To travel by bus contact the People's Organization for Progress, 973-801-0001; or the Black United Fund, 201-920-0653.

Yet a stranger: Why Black Americans still don't feel at Home Writing by Black Men

"If America still considers it a self-evident truth that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of

Yet a stranger: Why Black Americans still don't feel at home

Written by Deborah Mathis
Published by WarnPenguin Press

demic of failed public schools, by transportation shortages, by job discrimination. These restrictions automatically restrain the pursuit of happiness."

—Excerpt from Yet a Stranger—

Why is America still largely two worlds: one black, one white, despite all the social inroads started in the Sixties during the Civil Rights Movement? Why do blacks and whites, in general, have such opposite attitudes on subjects ranging from Allen Iverson to affirmative action to the OJ verdict? Deborah Mathis knows why and she discusses all of the above and other hot-button race issues in *Yet a Stranger: Why Black Americans Still Don't Feel at Home*.

Mathis, a nationally-syndicated columnist for Gannett News Service and USA Today is a very well reasoned and entertaining writer who I found myself disagreeing with about as often as I shared her sentiments. The

of color by housing patterns and mortgage discrimination, by the epi-

author writes from a decidedly black perspective but always offsets her own with the corresponding average white person's point-of-view in order to help the reader understand why the country remains encumbered by the inescapable predicament of race.

What makes her book most valuable are its plethora of unique observations, many of which had never even occurred to me before. For example, the author certainly surprised me with her persuasive argument against the use of the now generally accepted term African-American.

She prefers to use the word black, because "it is my blackness that America needs to confront, not my continental origin. When Amadou Diallo was gunned down, it was not his Africanism that rattled the police officers. It was his blackness." This idea is evocative of Malcolm X's reminder that black people caught hell not because they were Muslim or Baptist, or Democrat or Republican, but simply because they were black.

Mathis is just as intriguing when weighing in on the OJ Simpson decision, which she views as a sort of overdue judicial payback. She recounts her reaction to the not-guilty verdict, witnessed among a mostly-white group of colleagues, as follows, "Instantly, my fist punched the air and a hissing 'yes' escaped my mouth. At

that moment, relief and satisfaction swept over me like a cool tide and I was unable to contain my emotion despite my company."

With an alternately refreshing and alarming honesty, Mathis eloquently delineates the difference in how blacks and whites feel about the same subject. Take Allen Iverson, who she sees as embraced by the African-American community because of his "an assertive and demonstrative blackness, with braided hair and street-tinged cool," the very same characteristics for which whites are likely "to pick him apart, looking for the hero's holes." Fairly prophetic, given Allen's current legal problems. "Those who conform and mirror European models are rewarded," Ms. Mathis concludes.

And again and again, whether exploring feminism the Columbine shootings or racial profiling, *Yet a Stranger* takes an unsettling and provocative look at America, because Deborah Mathis is a master at tapping into and conveying the competing psyches of blacks and whites, two peoples ever at odds, yet also inextricably linked to each other now and forever.



Happiness...

then poor black Americans have more than a minor point of contention. The chokehold on liberty is evident in the national habit of quarantining people

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Son of pop legend, Dionne Warick breaks through on his own

Damon Elliott knows a thing or two about divas. His mom is one: Dionne Warwick. So it should come as no surprise that the producersongwriter is making a name for himself by stinging music for some of the top female artists in popular music today. What is unusual is that not only is Elliott involved with some of the hottest recording artists, he's also contributing music to blockbuster motion pictures at the same time.

In the last year, Elliott has produced, written and/or remixed songs for Destiny's Child, Pink, Mya, and Kylie Minogue as well as solo material for all three members of Destiny's Child. He's also helping to shake movie theatres with his music for "ScoobyDoo," "Austin Powers: Goldmember," and "Down To Earth." Recently Elliott was recruited to serve as music supervisor and composer for the live action "Fat Albert" feature, which is based on the famed cartoon series.

While his mom is best known for siding the gentle ballads of Bacharach & David and his father was a jazz drummer, Elliott's own musical signature is more alive, comprised chiefly of funky beats and vibrant melodies. He's incredibly musical and diverse. In recent years,

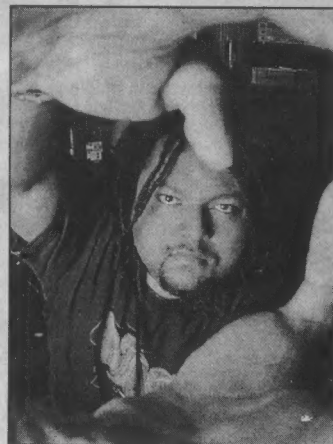
Elliott has joined fawn with a wide array of stellar artists that includes Green Day, Enmena, Bone ThugsNHarmoney, Keith Sweat, Barry White, and Ziggy Marley. But it is his work with female vocalists that has him on the fast track. Elliott cowrote and produced four songs for Pink's multiplatinum album, "Missundaztood," including the title cut. He was tapped to produce one of Beyonce Knowles' songs "Hey Goldmember" and remix the first single "Work It out" far the third instrument of the "Austin Powers" film franchise.

Elliott coproduced Mya's vocals on the Grammy winning remake of "Lady Marmalade" for the Moulin Rouge soundtrack and wrote and produced a half dozen selections for Mya's next album.

"Not exactly sure how I ended up working with all these incredible women, but I don't think too many guys would complain," said Elliott with a chuckle. But in his Burbank-based recording studio,

Elliott is all business. Tall and burly, he's a dynamic ball of energy, committed and passionate about his art. "Whether it's making music for an artist for an album or hooking up with a director for a film, it's about the challenge of coming up with something fresh, something that really captures the personality of the artist or the movie. That's what excites me and peps me up all night in the studio."

Staying up all night in the studio is ewaly what Elliott will be doing for a while.



Damon Elliott

"TUMBS UP!"

Roger Ebert, EBERT & ROEPER

"SATISFYING AND TRULY FUNNY..."
Deason Howe, WASHINGTON POST/WEEKEND

"LAWRENCE IS A GIFTED STAND-UP."
Terry Lawson, THE DETROIT FREE PRESS

"HILARIOUS...SIDESPLITTING..."
Chris Hewitt, KNIGHT-RIDDER

"THIS IS VERY FUNNY STUFF..."
Joe Leydon, SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

"HE IS SO FUNNY...
OUTRAGEOUS HUMOR!"
Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"HILARIOUS!"
Jane Suman, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

"LAWRENCE IS A GIFTED PERFORMER..."
Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

"OUTRAGEOUS!"
Owen Gleiberman, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

Truth
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CD KAUFMAN ASTORIA CINEMA 14
DOES IT 8:15 PM 1-800-555-TELL

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Homestead rebate checks going out soon

TRENTON — Governor James E. McGreevey announced Friday that the Division of Taxation will start mailing out 2001 Homestead Rebate checks to eligible taxpayers during the week of August 19.

"Our homeowners and tenants are the foundation upon which our communities and State are built. The Homestead Rebate Program provides direct property tax relief for our senior citizens and middle class New Jersey families," McGreevey said. "As Governor, I am strongly committed to appropriating the necessary money to sustain this valued property tax relief program in the current fiscal year and in

the future."

Governor McGreevey said that despite a \$6 billion deficit, he made direct property tax relief a top priority and protected funding for these critical programs.

"This year's Homestead Rebate Program will provide checks up to \$775 — \$25 higher than last year's maximum benefit to eligible senior and disabled citizens. New Jersey's budget crisis and cash flow problems slowed our normal delivery timetable by a few weeks," Treasurer John E. McConnac said.

Homestead Rebate checks are one of three direct property tax relief benefits sent out to New Jersey citizens within

the first quarter of the fiscal year. Approximately two weeks ago, more than 61,000 senior households received Property Tax Reimbursement "Senior Freeze" checks averaging \$172 to offset annual increases in their property tax bill. Next month, NJ SAVER rebates averaging \$500 will be sent out to eligible homeowners for additional relief.

The State budget provides for \$514 million for Homestead Rebates to approximately 1.6 million residents. Despite a \$6 billion shortfall, Governor McGreevey balanced the budget and increased rebate funding by \$13.7 million, boosting the rebate maximum to \$775. The Governor's budget also

includes increases for the Senior Property Tax Freeze Program, which was expanded this year to thousands of additional senior households.

The Governor's budget for FY 2003 contains approximately \$12 billion in direct and indirect property tax relief for New Jersey citizens, which is more than half of the \$23.4 billion spending plan. While putting taxpayers first, the Governor also held the line on overall State spending. He limited budget growth to less than one percent over the previous fiscal year and refused to cut state aid for property tax relief to municipalities and school districts across the state.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Housing Authority of the Town of Morristown is seeking a multi-disciplined architectural and engineering firm (A/E) to provide professional services for the implementation of work items included in the Capital Fund Program (CFP) as follows:

1. Retaining wall replacements at Manahan Village and 31 Early St.
2. Drainage improvements at Manahan Village
3. Individual apartment temperature controls at 39 Early St.
4. Replacement of fire alarm at 29 Ann St.
5. Conversion of office space at 45 Clyde Potts Dr. (Manahan Village) to other uses

Interested A/E firms are invited to contact Joseph Clark, Modernization Coordinator, at 1-732-345-5157 if there are any questions on construction intent.

Specifications can be obtained at the Administrative Offices of the Morristown Housing Authority, 31 Early Street, Morristown, NJ during regular business hours or can be mailed by calling 1-973-538-6343.

Two (2) copies of proposal must be submitted no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2002 at the above administrative offices.

The Morristown Housing Authority encourages participation of minority enterprises.

David Gardner
Executive Director

\$17.15

Advertisement for Bids

The Housing Authority of the City of Long Branch
Garfield Court Administrative Building
PO Box 337
Long Branch, NJ 07740

Sealed bids for Refuse Removal for the Housing Authority Developments

The Long Branch Housing Authority shall receive bids by Thursday August 29, 2002, at the Administration office of the Housing Authority until 10:00 am. At 10:00 am all bids shall be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids must be submitted prior to the designated time for acceptance and opening of bids and be submitted either by mail or in person by bidder or his agent. No bids shall be accepted after the designated time.

All bids shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the bidder and clearly marked "Refuse Removal".

The information for bidder, form of bid and specification may be reviewed and obtained at the offices of the Long Branch Housing Authority at any time during regular business hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday starting August 12, 2002. After August 12, 2002 telephone the Long Branch Housing Authority at (732) 222-3747 ext. 110 with any questions.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a certification by the bidder regarding equal opportunity employment practice and Bid Security.

The Authority does not obligate itself to accept the lowest bid and reserves the right to waive any information in the bid or to accept or reject any or all bids if deemed in the best interest of the Authority.

Tyrone Garrett
Executive Director

\$19.60

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PERFORMANCE OF TECHNICAL SUPPLEMENTAL STAFFING SERVICES ON AN "AS-NEEDED" BASIS DURING 2003, 2004 AND 2005

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is seeking to identify firms interested in responding to a Request for Proposal (RFP) for providing supplemental staffing services in various technology service categories on an "as-needed" basis during 2003, 2004 and 2005 to include but not be limited to the following:

General: Applications Designers/Developers Business Consultants Electronic Business Developers IT Architects	L&M Designers Operating System Programs Programmers Project Managers	Systems Analysts Systems Integrators Transportation Specialists Web Designers/Developers
Specialists: Infrastructure & SCADA Revenue Control	IT Specialists Physical/Logical & Help	IT Specialists Security W&M

Temporary Professional and Technical Staff are typically assigned to work at One Madison Avenue, but may also be assigned to various Port Authority facilities within New York and New Jersey. Firms responding to this request should be in the primary business of providing Temporary Professional and Technical Staff.

Firms with demonstrated experience in the placement of the above listed staff in the past three (3) years are encouraged to request of copy of the RFP. Additional requirements may be obtained by calling the Project Manager, Mary Lou Rivera, at (201) 953-7387.

Proposal and pre-qualification requirements are set forth in the document entitled "Request for Proposals for Providing Supplemental Technical Staff on an 'As-Needed' Basis During 2003, 2004 and 2005", a copy of which will be furnished to interested temporary staff firms upon request to Ms. Terri Hutcherson, by e-mail, at thutcher@panynj.gov. Proposals to be submitted in response to the RFP shall be due on or about September 3, 2002.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWARK 87 SUSSEX AVENUE NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR THE MOTOR POOL

The Housing Authority of the City of Newark (NHA) is seeking proposals from qualified Consultants to assist in developing a Preventive Maintenance Plan for the agency's motor pool. Joint ventures are permissible.

Interested firms may obtain the "General Scope of Services" for the proposal from the Authority's Contracts Division, 500 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, (973) 273-6528. Respondent shall present the proposal as a Fixed Fee Lump sum cost.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on Wednesday, August 21, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. at 500 Broad Street, 5th Floor Conference Room, Newark, New Jersey 07102.

Proposals must be submitted not later than 4:00 PM, Tuesday, September 10, 2002.

The Housing Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, or to waive any informalities in the proposals.

Respondents are required to comply with requirements of P.L. 1975, C. 127.

Proposals shall be clearly titled RFP #02-P1777-1, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR THE MOTOR POOL and submitted to:

Jimmy Miller
Deputy Executive Director
The Housing Authority of the City of Newark
500 Broad Street, 5th Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102

No proposal shall be withdrawn for a period of one hundred twenty (120) calendar days subsequent to the date of receipt of the proposals, with the consent of the Housing Authority of the City of Newark.

For further information, contact Antoinette Tillery, NHA Coordinator, at (973) 273-6528.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWARK HAROLD LUCAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PERFORMANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLERICAL SUPPLEMENTAL STAFFING SERVICES ON AN "AS-NEEDED" BASIS DURING 2003, 2004 AND 2005

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is seeking to identify firms interested in responding to a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the performance of Administrative and Clerical Supplemental Staffing Services on an "as-needed" basis during 2003, 2004 and 2005. Specific Staff types to be placed during this period may include, but are not limited to the following:

Office Aide Principal Office Assistant Secretary Junior Secretary Office Assistant	Secretary w/Steno Junior Office Assistant Senior Administrative Secretary Senior Office Assistant Administrative Secretary
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Firms with demonstrated experience in the placement of the above listed staff for at least three (3) years are encouraged to request of copy of the RFP.

Additional pre-qualification requirements will be provided to you upon email request to mrivera@panynj.gov.

The response to the RFP to be submitted to the Authority is set forth in the document entitled "Request for Proposals for Performance of Administrative and Clerical Supplemental Staffing Services on an 'As-Needed' Basis During 2003, 2004 and 2005", a copy of which will be furnished to interested supplemental staffing firms upon request to Ms. Laurie Spencer, by e-mail, at lspencer@panynj.gov. Proposals shall be due on or about September 5, 2002.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY COORDINATOR

Public Agency seeks Coordinator to develop and administer programs to assist in the selection and training of public housing residents and housing subsidy recipients to become self-sufficient. Provide coordination of services and training including vocational training, daycare, transportation, parenting, financial/housing counseling, etc. Must have computer skills. Background in social work or low income housing administration a plus. Excellent benefit package. Send resume by 8/23/02.

Housing Authority of the City of Passaic
333 Passaic St., Passaic, NJ 07055-5896
Attn: Sandra Ortiz

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INTERVIEWER (TENANT)

Public Agency seeks individual to interview clients, certify and calculate income, and handle general clerical duties. One year interviewing experience required. Computer literacy and high school diploma or GED certificate required. Knowledge of Section 8 Housing Assistance Program a plus. Full benefits provided. Send resume or come in to fill out an application. Deadline 8/23/02.

Housing Authority of the City of Passaic
333 Passaic St., Passaic, NJ 07055
Attn: Sandra Ortiz

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Calendar

Community

FRIDAYS UNTIL LABOR DAY

Jersey City — Liberty Science Center will offer Family Friendly Days from 9:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. For more info call 201-200-1000.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

Lincroft — The Monmouth County Park System schedules "Moving Water Kayaking" Clinic, for area residents ages 15 and up from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. For more info call 732-842-4000.

Holmdel — Monmouth County Park system will host "The Wild Way Friday Night Program" from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Holmdel Park Activity Center. For more info call 732-842-4000.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

Locust — Monmouth County Park system will host "In the Heat of the Night" nature program from 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Huber Woods Environmental Center. For more info call 732-842-4000.

Washington, D.C. — Buses will leave NJ for the Millions for Reparations Rally. For info call the People's Organization for Progress, 973-801-0001 or Black United Fund at 201-920-0653.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

Lincroft — The Monmouth County Park System continues its "Great Impression for Aspiring Young Artist". Youngsters from ages 8-15 are invited. For more info call 732-219-9484.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

Newark — Attention all job seekers! Urban League of Essex County is sponsoring a UPS job fair from 9:00 p.m. till 12:00 p.m. For more info please call Mr. Jones at 973-624-9535.

SAT, AUG 25 - SUN, AUG 26

New York — H&M clothing store will host a project Kidcare event from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For more info call Whitney Termaine at 212-645-6900.

Dover — Housing Partnership for Morris County will host a rental education workshop from 5:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. For info call 973-659-9222.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

New York — New York Times expands librarian awards recognizing librarians in New York City. Nominations process is now open. For more info call 212-556-5244.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Rahway — The Rahway Center Partnership (RCP) will present its second annual Baby Day Parade from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more info call 732-396-3545.

Business

WED - FRI, AUGUST 14-16

Newark — Ironbound Business Improvement District presents Sounds of Ironbound from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. For more info call 973-491-9191.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

Oceanport — The Human and Civil Rights Association of New Jersey will host the "Affirmative Action - Is It A Public Policy?" training workshop from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For more info call 201-460-4210.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5

Newark — A town meeting in the garden of remembrance, a memorial to September 11. This event is from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. At the Newark Museum for more info call 973-596-6613 admission is free.

TUESDAY, SEPT 17, 19

Cranford — Union County College will teach a Microsoft Windows 2002 course, part 1 from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. For more info call 908-965-6000

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Newark — Small Business Administration is offering free seminar to help small businesses gain access to federal government contracting opportunities from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For more info call 973-645-4651.

SEPTEMBER 24, 26, 28

Cranford — Union County College will teach a Microsoft Windows 2002 course, part 2 from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Heartbeat

ONGOING

East Orange — The Blood Center of NJ is accepting blood donations. For more info call 1-800-433-5522.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

Clifton — Clara Mass Auxiliary hosts a fashion show at the Valley Regency at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 973-450-2150.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

Piscataway — Lupus Foundation of America will host a 3.2M "Walk-Along for Lupus" event at Johnson Park beginning at 9:00 a.m. For more info call 1-800-322-5816.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Saddle Brook — Lupus Foundation of America will host a 3.2M "Walk-Along for Lupus" event at Saddle River Park beginning at 9:00 a.m. For info call 1-800-322-5816.

Artz

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

Newark — Free Jazz in the street concert from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the WBGO studios at 54 Park Place. Free live music outdoors featuring the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, James Williams and the William Paterson Jazz ensemble, and The Lewis Porter Quintet. For more info call 973-624-8880

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

Madison — NJ Shakespeare Festival present "The Illusion" a comedic play about a fathers search for his son, directed by Paul Mullins. For info call the box office at 973-408-5600.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

New Brunswick — Soukous Night with Kanda Bongo Man coming to Makeda's. For tickets call 732-545-5115.

SAT, AUG 17 - FRI AUG, 23

Newark — African Globe Performing Arts Organization, summer works 2002 productions presents "Salvation" the musical. Hosted at the Newark Symphony Hall, for more info call 973-624-1584.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Newark — House of Poetry presented by the African Globe Studio. Admission \$5, show starts 5:00 p.m., party from 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. For more info call 973-624-1584.

Pittstown — The 4th annual "Musiconetong River Blues Festival", begins at 1:00 p.m. at the Alexandria Field Airport. There is a \$500.00 performance fee for this event. For more info call 973-340-7672.

SATURDAY AUGUST 24

New York — Saxophonist, Joshua Redman presenting his new album "Elastic" at the J & R Jazz Festival at City Hall in NYC. For more info call Aliza Rabinoff at 718-522-7171 ext. 28.

Elizabeth — Festivals at the Pier, performance by "The Vince Ector Jazz Group". Taking place at the Veteran Memorial Park from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more info call 908-820-8624.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28

Holmdel — PNC bank arts center will be presenting the "Sprite Liquid Mix Tour". Featuring Jay-Z & Roca Fella Family, Nappy Roots, N.E.R.D, and Hoobastank. Doors open at 1:30pm, for more info call 732-335-0400.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

Newark — The 2nd annual American crafts festival will be held at NJPAC from 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. For more information call 973-353-8051.

TUES, SEPT 3 - SEPT, 29

Madison — New Jersey Shakespeare festival 40th anniversary season: The Grand Magic. A love/hate feud transcending, discover the secrets locked in the heart of a man. Tickets are \$22 to \$50, for more info call 973-408-3278.

SEPTEMBER 7, 8, 14, 15

New York — 17th annual Autumn Crafts Festival at the Lincoln Center for the performing arts. Admission is free. For more info call 973-746-009.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 - 29

Newark — African Globe Theater works present "Driving Miss Daisy". A warm hearted, gently humorous and truly affecting portrayal of the unlikely relationship between an aged southern lady and proud black man. For more info call 973-624-1584.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Plainfield — The Latin American Coalition Festival Committee will stage its 2nd Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival from 10:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. For more info call 908-753-7155.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Newark — NJPAC presents Peru to Portugal: A Voyage with Voices at 7:00 p.m. This program is part of the World Festival VI. For more info call 1-888-466-5722.

THURS, SEPT, 19 - SEPT, 22

Stanhope — The 9th biennial Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry festival will be held at the historic Waterloo Village, for more info call 973-540-8443.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Newark — Music lab every Friday, live bands and unsigned talent. Wanted singers, musicians, lyricists, storytellers, song writers, producers, bands & poets. For more info call 973-624-1584.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

New Brunswick — Debut management presents a "Gospel Showcase" at the Crossroad Theater. Record labels will be scouting new talent. For auditions or more info call 908-851-0840.

THUR, OCT 3 - SAT, OCT 5

Newark — Newark Symphony Hall will present "A Woman's Revenge" at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday & Friday and 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. For more info call 973-643-8009.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

Newark — NJPAC presents Quasar, an innovative Brazilian dance company at 7:00 p.m. For more info call 1-888-466-5722.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Morristown — The Community Theatre will commence its 2002-2003 season at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 973-539-0345.

Religion

SATURDAY AUGUST 24

Newark — Friendly poets from Newark sought in free contest. A 1,000 grand prize is being offered in a special religious poetry contest. To enter send one poem of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 2255 N University Pkwy Ste 15 #196, Provo, Utah 84604. Or enter online at www.friendlypoets.com. The deadline is Aug 24, for more info call 317-849-1684.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Newark — St. James AME Church presents "Soul Men Cooking for Christ", at 588 MLK Blvd., at 2:00 p.m. For more info please call 973-429-0664.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Newark — Fifth Anniversary Celebration/Concert will take place at Metropolitan Baptist Church on 149 Springfield Avenue. For more info call 973-642-2267

Please mail or fax your calendar items to 111 Mulberry street, Townhouse C, Newark N.J. 07102 Or fax to 973-642-5444.



"GUESS WHAT? MY CHECKING IS STILL FREE."

"Hi, it's me, Mariah again. Well, it's been a month since I switched to Washington Mutual and my *Free Checking* account is still free. I was telling the pastor that all the members should get *Free Checking*. (I know one thing; if he mentioned their *Free Checking* during his preaching it might put a little life in his sermons!) Anyway, I'm still getting free 24 hour customer service, free standard online banking and I'm not charged a fee to talk to tellers. My canceled checks are returned free of charge and I don't pay a fee for every check

I write. I also like that there are no monthly fees whatever my balance is and no direct deposit requirements. Listen, they don't even make you pay to receive a Washington Mutual Visa® Check Card. Free means free. These folks know what they're doing. They should. They're a part of a family of companies that's been around since 1889. You should put them to the test like I did. They've got lots of new ideas. Well, I'll see you in this paper next time. Or, I'll see you in church. (Whichever happens first.)"



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Newark non-profits receive \$5.1 in grants from Victoria Foundation

GLEN RIDGE — The Victoria Foundation recently approved \$5,106,200 for non-profits in Newark, including the the New Community Corporation, which was awarded \$650,000.

Among the highlights was a grant of \$225,000 to Chad School Foundation in Newark for operating support at the elementary school, operating costs at Chad Science Academy and to match a financial challenge set by Senator Jon Corzine.

Substantial grants were also awarded to the Bank Street College of Education to develop two New Beginnings demonstrations schools and at least six demonstration class-

rooms in two primary schools in Newark, and to the Children's Literacy Initiative. The trustees approved more than \$2.4 million for education programs.

In addition, the foundation affirmed its commitment "to community development throughout Newark" with grants to agencies including Unified Vailsburg Services Organization which received \$170 thousand. More than 50 organizations received awards as follows: education, \$2.4 million; environment, \$290 thousand; major community institutions \$200 thousand; neighborhood development/urban activities, \$1.378 million; youth and family, \$815.2

Third annual Ethfest celebrates Plainfield's cultural diversity

Three years ago Jean Mattson, who holds a degree in African American studies, looked around at the diverse population in The City of Plainfield and wondered what it would be like to bring more of the city's 48,000 residents together.

Mattson came up with the idea of holding a festival celebrating the exotic foods, dress, music and art of the different cultures residing in Plainfield. She discussed the idea with Mayor Al McWilliams, and Ethfest became a reality.

This year marked the third celebration in the city. Ethfest organizer, Susan Walcott, and her team had an added vision to hold the event outdoors at Cedarbrook Park.

Mayor Albert T. McWilliams said, "Having this event outdoors enabled us to reach more of our city's families".

A Philippine dancer who attended both last year's and this year's Ethfest said, "I am enjoying kids asking me about my culture. It is great that they are learning so much."

The organizers produced a myriad of performers representing over 14 different countries and cultures. Local and area performers included the

Newark Symphony Steel Band, representing the Caribbean; Katunge Mimy African Dancers, representing Africa; the Monmouth Folk Dancers, representing Greece; and the Alay Philippine Performing Arts.

Ethfest crafters demonstrated a number of cultural how-to's, such as Ukrainian egg painting, demonstrated by Olga A. Kobryn, African mask making exhibited by Mansa K. Mussa. There was also story telling by Ruth Blake, origami demonstrations by Kaori Matsukoa, and an impressive display of African Inventions and inventors by Vii Services.

Because of this year's increased attendance, Ethfest's organizers plan to hold future festivals outside annually in July. Mattson's cultural brainchild, Ethfest, is now an annual activity sponsored by the City of Plainfield.



Jean Mattson, Chairman of Ethfest

Local Briefs

Parents threaten to boycott over West Kinney Alternative rerouting

NEWARK — A plan to send incoming West Side High freshmen to the West Kinney Alternative High School to lessen overcrowding has angered parents concerned about the safety of their children. A boycott has been threatened.

McGreevey announces implementation of amber alert system

TRENTON — Governor James McGreevey announced recently that an Amber Alert system which will use the media to help locate missing children within hours of their abduction will be implemented by September.

Plainfield's tennis team does NJ proud

The Plainfield Tennis Council 3.5 Junior Tennis Team went to Knoxville, TN from August 4 through 10 to represent the United States Tennis Association, (USTA) Eastern Section in the AAU Junior Olympics. In May the team won the regionals in Greenburg, NY and went on to Albany, NY.